GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1363
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
SHORTAGE OF SIM CARD IN WEST BENGAL .
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is an acute shortage of BSNL, SIM cards in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the problem; and

(d) the target set by the BSNL for West Bengal during the current year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (Dr. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) There is no shortage of SIM Cards. As on 31.10.2004, 4.9 lakhs subscriber are availing Cellular Mobile Service Provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in West Bengal (including Kolkatta, Telephone District). Due to capacity constraints, further release of SIM cards has been controlled.

(c) A purchase order for the expansion of the network by 13.25 lakhs lines for West Bengal including Kolkatta Telephones District has been placed. The network roll out is expected during 2005.

(d) The target set is 5.85 lakh lines for West Bengal including Kolkatta Telephone District.